

Watch Out For Con Artists...

Con artists may prey upon people's desires to find a miracle cure for chronic conditions or fatal diseases. Remember these tips:

- If it sounds too good to be true, it probably is.
- Don't let greed or desperation override common sense.
- Get a second opinion on any major purchase, repair, or donation.
- Be wary of high-pressure sales tactics, need for quick decisions, demands for cash only, or high yield/low risk investments.
- Always ask for identification from all solicitors and call their agency for verification.
- Don't commit yourself to charitable donations over the phone. Ask the caller to mail you information so you can make an informed decision. If you are not familiar with the company or organization, consult the Iowa Attorney General's Office: 281-5926.
- Read and understand all contracts before signing. If your sight is impaired, have someone you trust read the document to you.
- Beware of anyone offering products or services as a "once in a lifetime" offer.
- Consider direct bank deposit for all checks to avoid mail theft or robbery.
- Never provide information such as birth date, social security number, address, etc. in any conversation that you did not initiate. It's illegal for telemarketers to ask for these numbers to claim a prize or gift.

Important Phone Numbers

- **911 Emergency**
- **222-3321 WDMPD**
Non Emergency
- **277-0630 Elderly**
Outreach
- **211 – "Other" Non**
Emergency Assistance
- **281-5926 Iowa**
Attorney General -
Consumer Protection



West Des Moines Police Department



Community Education/Outreach
250 Mills Civic Parkway

Phone: 515-222-3333
Fax: 515-222-3331

**West Des Moines
Police Department**



*Safer
Seniors*

**"Crime Prevention Is
Everybody's Business"**

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www.wdm-ia.com**

Some Practical Tips For Safer Seniors...

Virtually all activities in life entail some level of risk, and we all have different attitudes toward risk. As people grow older, their chances of being victims of crime decrease dramatically. But a lifetime of experience coupled with the physical problems associated with aging often make older Americans fearful and trapped in their own homes. Though they're on the lookout constantly for physical attack and burglary, they're not as alert to fraud and con games—in reality the greatest crime threat to seniors' well being and trust.

Want to conquer fear and crime?
Take these common-sense
precautions →



Be Alert When Out And About...

- Go with friends or family, not alone
- Carry your purse close to your body, not dangling by the straps. Put a wallet in and inside coat or front pants pocket
- Don't carry credit cards you don't need or large amounts of cash
- Use direct deposit for Social Security and other regular checks
- Keep car doors locked whether you are a passenger or driver. Be particularly alert in parking lots and garages. Park near an entrance.



- Sit close to the driver or near the exit while riding the bus or other public transportation

- If someone or something makes you feel uneasy, trust your instincts and leave
- Carry medical information and identification

Make Your Home Safe And Secure...



- Install good locks on your doors and windows and use them. Don't hide keys in mailboxes, planters, or under doormats. Instead leave an extra set of keys with a trusted neighbor or friend.
- Ask for photo identification from service or delivery people before letting them in the door. If you are the least bit worried, look up the company name in the phone book and call the company to verify.
- Be sure your street address number is large, clear of obstruction, and well-lighted so police and other emergency personnel can find your home quickly.
- Consider a home alarm system that provides emergency monitoring for burglary, fire, and medical emergencies.
- Get to know your neighbors
- Turn some outside lights on

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